IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : David J. Boothby et al.   Art Unit : 2177
Serial No. : 09/840,403   Examiner : J. Homere
Filed   : April 23, 2001
Title   : SYNCHRONIZATION OF DATABASES USING HASH NUMBERS FOR
             COMPARING RECORDS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF NOVEMBER 1, 2005

The examiner has withdrawn the earlier anticipation rejection of the independent claims (35, 37) over Salkewicz (US 5970502), and substituted an obviousness rejection over Salkewicz combined with Preneel. The examiner is urged to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

The invention of claims 35 and 37 is directed to identifying a record of a first database, as part of a process of synchronizing the first database with a second database, by assigning a hash-based code to the record, and using the hash-based code in the synchronization process to determine whether the record is identical to a record of the second database.

As explained in the prior reply, Salkewicz teaches nothing even remotely relevant to the invention. The only resemblance of Salkewicz and the invention is that both use the word, "hash".

In the invention of claims 35 and 37, a hash process is used to compute a "hash number based on at least a portion of the content" of a first record. The hash number is "insufficient to reconstruct the record but sufficient to identify the record." The hash number is used in the